

Wilmington, Delaware
April 2, 2009

#3140

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Wright

Co-Sponsors

Council
Members
Potter
Congo
Shabazz
Prado
Ignudo
Martelli
Brown
Freel
Walsh

Council
President
Griffiths

WHEREAS, House Bill 17, as amended, is pending in the Delaware General

Assembly, having been introduced by its sponsor The Honorable Representative Hazel
Plant; and

WHEREAS, HB 17 is an act proposing an amendment to Article V, Section 2,

of the Constitution of the State of Delaware relating to qualifications for voting; and

WHEREAS, HB 17, as amended, was approved by the Delaware House of

Representatives on March 31, 2009, and is now awaiting action by the State Senate; and

WHEREAS, more specifically, HB 17, as amended, proposes an amendment to

the said Article V, Section 2 of the Delaware Constitution, the effect of which is to
eliminate the waiting period of five (5) years before eligible felons who have fully

discharged their sentences may have their voting rights restored; and

WHEREAS, HB 17, as amended, is the "first leg" of a Constitutional

Amendment to be approved by both houses of the Delaware General Assembly in two
successive sessions, the second of which will begin in January, 2011 following the
November, 2010 general elections; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Wilmington wishes to express its

support for the restoration of voting rights immediately following the expiration of a
felon's sentence or upon receiving a pardon from the governor, rather than the current
five-year waiting period for eligible felons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE

CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the Wilmington City Council hereby expresses its support for HB 17, as amended, to amend the Delaware Constitution and eliminate the existing five-year waiting period before eligible felons who have fully discharged their sentences may have their voting rights restored.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wilmington City Council respectfully urges the Delaware General Assembly to enact the said HB 17, as amended.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to forward copies of this Resolution to all members of the Wilmington Delegation to the Delaware General Assembly, to the Speaker of the Delaware House of Representatives and to the President Pro Tempore of the Delaware Senate.

Passed by City Council,
April 2, 2009

ATTEST: Mariabel Ruiz
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 1st
day of April, 2009.

John R. Smith
City Solicitor